

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03066 220627Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20

DRC-01 /109 W

----- 119790

R 220535Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3229

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S EUROPEAN VISIT STILL

PLANNED BUT COULD BE CHANGED

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MAY 22 DFA (FRANK COOPER, ASST SECRETARY, EUROPEAN BRANCH) SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S PROJECTED TRIP TO EUROPE, INCLUDING SOVIET UNION, IS STILL BEING PLANNED FOR APPROXIMATE PERIOD JUNE 15-JULY 15, BUT IT IS NOT FIRM AS YET. SOVIET UNION AND EAST GERMANY HAVE NOT YET CONFIRMED DATES (MOSCOW IS TO BE FIRST STOP). COOPER SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOWS THERE IS NOTHING TO PRESS ARTICLES MAY 21 THAT WHITLAM EUROPEAN VISIT WOULD BE SHORTENED TO TWO WEEKS, THOUGH HE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SHORTER VISIT IF ELECTION RESULT IS VERY CLOSE. HE ADDED THERE IS ALSO NO SUBSTANCE TO PRESS REPORTS THAT WHITLAM MIGHT VISIT ISRAEL DURING COURSE OF TRIP.

2. COMMENT: SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHITLAM EUROPEAN VISIT WILL NOT BE DEFINITELY CONFIRMED UNTIL RESULTS OF AT LEAST HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION AVAILABLE AROUND MAY 30. EVEN IF LABOR RETAINS OFFICE WITH SMALL MAJORITY (WHICH WE THINK IS MOST LIKELY OUTCOME), WHITLAM MAY COME IN FOR CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM FOR HEADING OFF TO EUROPE ON VISIT LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS ONLY OF MARGINAL VALUE TO AUSTRALIA WHEN
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MAJOR DOMESTIC ISSUES (INFLATION, PROBLEMS OF GOVERNING

WITH SMALL MAJORITY) ARE CLAMORING FOR ATTENTION.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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To: STATE
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